

NORTHALLERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Clerk: WILLIAM FOWLE, Solicitor.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

NORTHALLERTON,
FEBRUARY 12TH, 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report.

Number of Deaths.	Population 1891.	Death Rate, per 1000.
117.	7,470.	General 15·79 Infant 104·9

Death Rate on Population estimated to middle of 1895,
16·32 per 1000.

Number of Births.	Birth Rate per 1000.
162.	22·6

Zymotic Death Rate (exclusive of Influenza)4 per 1000.

Average age at Death ... 47·7

In addition four persons belonging to your area died elsewhere. And three children belonging to the area were born in the Workhouse.

Noteworthy and satisfactory features shown in the tables are :—

- I.—The low Zymotic Death Rate, ·4 per 1000 as compared with 1·3 for the year 1894.
- II.—The low Infant mortality 17, as compared with 28 in the previous year.
- III.—The average age at death 47·7 due to infant mortality, and the great age attained by many. Of 54 persons who died during the year aged 65 and upwards—

30	have attained the age of 75 and upwards.
11	” ” 80 ”
3	” ” 90 ”
One	of these died aged 98.

IV.—The comparative freedom from Infectious disease experienced by the area during the past year.

SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR.

The result of the year's work is not so satisfactory as it ought to be owing to the fact that during 11 months of the year we were without the services of an Inspector.

It is with much pleasure that I have to record—

- I.—The adoption by the Council of “Notification of Infectious Diseases.”
- II.—And the provision of a pure water supply for the village of Brompton.
Both matters of vital importance to the public health of your area.

INSPECTIONS have been made of the villages of Atlay Hill, East Cowton, Great Smeaton, Appleton Wiske, Welbury, Deighton, Harlsey, Osmotherley, Thimbleby, Over Silton, Nether Silton, Borrowby, Thornton-le-Beans, Romanby, Ainderby Steeple, Morton-on-Swale, Thrintoft, Great Langton, Kiplin, Danby Wiske, and Brompton. Also SPECIAL INSPECTIONS in consequence of complaints by private persons at Romton, West; Thimbleby, Romanby, Ainderby Steeple, Appleton Wiske, Welbury, and Hornby Greens.

SEVERAL ANALYSES OF WATER have been made from Brompton, Romanby, Thimbleby, Atlay Hill, Nether Silton, and Ainderby Steeple. In each the water was found to be unwholesome.

The village of Brompton is now being supplied with exceptionally pure water from the Northallerton mains. The wells at Romanby, Atlay Hill, Romton, and Ainderby Steeple, have been repaired and cleaned, and are now properly protected. Two new wells have been sunk at Kiplin in consequence of the old supply, from the mill dam, having been condemned. No effort however has been made to remedy the pollution of water at Thimbleby Grange, which remains a source of danger to the household.

OUTBREAKS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES dealt with during the year.

DIPHTHERIA AT BROMPTON. Two cases in January and February. These were no doubt part of the outbreak which prevailed here during the greater part of 1894: both cases were dealt with in their own homes by strict isolation and disinfection till completely convalescent: both recovered satisfactorily and there has been no further spread.

MEASLES AT CROSHY. One case (imported from Winchester) in January. Isolation and disinfection at home, no further spread.

SCARLET FEVER AT WARLABY. One case in June. As this occurred in a small two-roomed cottage, the patient was immediately removed to the Fever Cottage, and made a good recovery. I was unable to ascertain the origin of this case: there was no further spread.

SCARLET FEVER AT YAFFORTIL. One case in November (imported from Northallerton): isolation and disinfection at home; no further case.

SCARLET FEVER AT SMEATON, HORNBY, AND BIRKBY. Several cases of a mild type in November. This outbreak was traced to a child at Hornby who had returned from Stockton convalescent from Scarlet Fever, and who was unfortunately allowed to attend school before she was free from infection. All cases were isolated at home and all recovered.

TYPHOID FEVER AT BROMPTON. Two cases in November, probably due to polluted water: isolation and disinfection at home. One case at Thimbleby, also probably due to filthy water; treated at home; all made satisfactory recoveries.

There have been no Magisterial proceedings or enquiries during the year: but conferences were held with Brompton Parish Council and Northallerton Urban District Council with regard to the water supply of Brompton.

Additional ventilation has been given to public subsidence tanks at Brompton and Smeaton. Additional ventilation has also been made to out-offices at Village Schools at Langton, Romanby, and Osmotherley.

PRESENT SANITARY CONDITION OF AREA.

MODES OF EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Usually carted into fallow land and ploughed in. Cesspools at Brompton, Appleton Wiske, Rounton, and Smeaton are cleaned periodically by roadmen. In other cases the refuse is taken away as manure by neighbouring farmers; there is often difficulty in getting this done as frequently as is desirable.

SEWERAGE OF DISTRICT.

The village sewers at Harlsey are altogether bad and give rise to constant nuisance. I beg again to recommend that they be re-laid and made to discharge into proper subsidence tanks. At present much of the sewage finds its way into a ditch by the road side and gives off most offensive smells in summer time.

Portions of the sewers at Rounton and Danby Wiske are in need of immediate attention.

An open sewer at Osmotherley should be covered in and given a better fall. At present it is often offensive and in flood time gives rise to serious nuisance. An open village sewer passing through the inn yard at Thimbleby is also frequently offensive and should be laid in. At Brompton the drainage is unaltered since my last annual report. The system is hopelessly bad consisting as it does of numerous badly placed cesspools uncemented and unventilated into which the majority of the drains discharge while others discharge direct into the beck. The danger arising from this state of things, though still great, is being considerably lessened by the new water supply.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Much is being gradually effected in this respect in the area. A new drainage system has been put down at Danby Hill. A new drainage system also at Hornby Greens in consequence of representations that ill-health was being induced by sewer air from untrapped, faulty drains and cesspools under the foundations of the houses.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

The drainage of Osmotherley continues to be discharged into the Wiske without treatment.

At Brompton several drains pass direct into the beck.

And the inhabitants of Romanby are still compelled to live in an atmosphere constantly polluted by vile effluvia given off from the sewage of Northallerton which is poured in a perfectly raw state into the small stream skirting the village.

WATER SUPPLY OF AREA.

This with the exception of Brompton, Osmotherley, and Over Siltan, is generally bad being chiefly drawn from badly placed surface wells. As stated above, however, much is being done each year to remedy this defect. The village of Nether Siltan is especially badly provided for in this respect being entirely without wholesome water, all the wells are polluted and neglected while there should be little difficulty in furnishing a supply of wholesome water to this village.

The trough supplying spring water to the lower end of Borrowby is badly placed, and after heavy rains becomes polluted with road washings. The spring at the higher end of the village is well cared for.

The fittings of the water service pipes at Osmotherley require more frequent inspection; occasionally houses are without water here entirely owing to waste in other parts of the village.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, AND DAIRIES

from which milk is sold are on the whole, kept in a satisfactory condition. There are, however, within the area private dairies most objectionably situated, being separated only by a wall from piggeries and privies.

SCHOOLS.

On the whole satisfactory as to cleanliness, ventilation, and out-offices.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

Sufficient for present requirements. I find however that graves are not always made of the required depth, and I would advise that those in authority should be reminded of the Home Office regulations with regard to graves.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted during the year—two from the Bedale area, and one from our own. In each case prompt isolation was successful in preventing any further spread of the disease. The management of the Hospital has been most satisfactory.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Act was not in operation during the past year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

within the area, have been conducted fairly satisfactorily during the year. One at Osmotherley is, however, without proper or sufficient sanitary convenience and ought to be closed unless these requirements are provided without further delay.

INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AND ACTION.

In compliance with this instruction I have to report that *“by far the most serious insanitary condition existing within your area is to be found at Romanby where the stream is polluted with the whole of Northallerton sewage in a perfectly raw state, giving rise to an abominable nuisance and a most serious menace to the Public Health.”* I would earnestly urge the Council to employ every possible means to rid the inhabitants of Romanby from the intolerable stinks they are compelled to endure during every Summer and Autumn.

The drainage of Harlsey, Brompton, and Danby Wiske; and the provision of wholesome water for Nether Siltan, are also pressing matters requiring active attention by the Council. I have also again to urge upon the Council the desirability of providing, either alone or in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities, a proper Pavilion Fever Hospital and Disinfection Chamber, which would enable us to deal more efficiently with outbreaks of infectious disease. There is no Isolation Hospital for Bedale; while the Fever Cottage of the Northallerton Urban District Council and our own, are equally and totally unfitted for the purposes of a general Fever Hospital.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

